

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ASHBY WOULD'S.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1899.

RODERIC LOGAN, M.R.C.S., ENG.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 1900.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH,

February 6th, 1900.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHBY WOULDs.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report upon
Sanitary Matters in your District for the year 1899.

Tables of deaths, new cases of infectious disease and
vital statistics are appended, with tables of Inspector's work
during the year.

The vital statistics are calculated per 1000 persons
living, and the infantile mortality per 1000 registered births.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

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Population. The population of the district estimated to the middle of 1899 is 2639.

Births. The number of births registered during the year is 78—including 31 males and 47 females. This gives a birth-rate of 25·7 per 1000 of the population.

The corresponding rate in 1898 was 36·3.

Deaths. The deaths at all ages and from all causes number 28, giving a death-rate of 10·6 per 1000.

The corresponding rate in 1898 was 16·9.

Infantile
Mortality. The deaths under one year of age number 7, giving an infantile mortality rate of 89 per 1000 registered births.

Infantile mortality rate 1898, 106.

Zymotic
Death-rate. Only one death has occurred from infectious sickness, including measles and whooping cough, giving a Zymotic death-rate of 0·3.

This one death was caused by Erysipelas.

I may note here that one death was caused by Phthisis, which is certainly infectious, but it is not usual to include deaths from this disease in calculations of Zymotic death-rate.

The Zymotic death-rate in 1898 was 4·2.

Amongst other causes of death were Diarrhoea 1, diseases of the lungs 4, heart disease 2, and injuries 2.

Infectious
Disease.

The number of cases of infectious sickness considerably exceeds that of last year. 41 cases have been notified, as compared with 7 last year of these Scarlatina accounts for 29, Diphtheria 7, and Erysipelas 5. The cases of Scarlatina were fairly scattered over the whole district, they were of a particularly mild character, and it was not found possible to induce parents to allow removal in any case to the Hospital.

In many cases complete disregard of all precautions was noted by me, and by your Sanitary Inspector, in spite of definite instructions given as to isolation, &c.

Although no deaths have been caused by this disease, very serious results often follow the mildest cases, such as severe inflammation of the ears leading to deafness, kidney disease which may cause permanent debility, and rheumatism.

I beg here to advise your Council very strongly to adopt the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890. This Act permits much more effective measures to be undertaken in dealing with infectious disease than the Public Health Act 1875, and has been found most valuable by all Authorities who have adopted it. It is in force in most of the important districts in the country.

Drainage

The whole district is in need of a main system of drainage and efficient methods of treatment of the sewage. The district is intersected by the

Midland Railway and the Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway, also by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal. This will somewhat complicate any scheme prepared, but will not produce any great difficulty.

The parts of the district urgently requiring drainage are Spring Cottage, Albert Village, Donisthorpe Lane and the Old Row, Newfields.

I understand that this question is already receiving the attention of the Council, and that temporary schemes for the drainage of the houses on the Ashby Road (Daybell, Paradise Row and Tugby's Cottages) on the one side of the Midland Railway and Donisthorpe Lane on the other side are to be put in hand at as early a date as possible. They should be carried out in such a manner as to be readily included in any main scheme that may later be projected.

Drainage.

The present drainage of the district consists in collecting the sewage (slop water only) of certain areas in small catch-pits (from which the sludge is removed at intervals) and the percolation of the effluent through neighbouring ditches into the nearest water course.

Scavenging.

The district throughout is scavenged by servants of the Council and is carried out satisfactory.

Water
Supply.

The water supply of the district is mainly from wells. In the case of Spring Cottage, no well water could be obtained for drinking or even domestic purposes. I advised your Council to supply this area from the Milton reservoirs connecting with the Woodville mains. This has not yet been taken in hand, although the contract for

the work has been accepted. I beg to urge upon the Council the necessity for this work to be carried out without further delay.

Summary of
Sanitary
Work.

410 privies and 206 ashpits have been regularly cleansed by Council's Contractors.

26 houses have been disinfected after infectious disease.

Various minor nuisances have been dealt with, but the number of such nuisances is satisfactorily low.

In conclusion I beg to call the special attention of your Council to the need for better drainage of the district, the hastening on of the water supply to Spring Cottage, and the adoption of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RODERIC LOGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

